

Dickinson County Conservation Board (DCCB)  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
7:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 10, 2013  
Dickinson County Nature Center

Presiding Chair: Steve Anderson

Members Present: Joan Gronstal, Eric Stoll, Kathy Kleen, Willia Mueska

Members Absent: None

Employees Present: Lee Sorenson, Angie Wills

Others Present: Pam Jordan

**Agenda Approval.** Gronstal/Stoll made a motion to approve the agenda. All Ayes, motion carried.

**Approval of the August 2013 Minutes** – Stoll/Mueska moved to approve the minutes. All ayes, carried

**Executive Director's Comments** – I have ask the Board of Supervisors for a budget amendment to cover the purchase of the Zimmer property. This will be out and in with no tax money involved. The public hearing will be set for October 1, 2013.

**Conservation Foundation of Dickinson County Update** – They received an invoice for the landscape project from Oelson Landscape, along with a letter stating why the project is so far behind schedule. They will make that payment from their general fund, foundation discussed that they did have enough funds in their fundraising account to cover the rest of the bid contract if needed. Foundation asked for Director Sorenson to write a letter to respond to the Oelson letter. Also Board discussed a getting a letter from the Foundation when the project is complete turning over all responsibilities to the Conservation Board.

**Environmental Education Update** –Board reviewed the handout for programs from Charles, he was unable to attend.

**Operations and facility update**

- Dickinson County Nature Center
  - Exterior Landscaping Update
    - Board discussed the letter from Oelson presented to the Conservation Foundation along with a bill. Oelson stated a lot of changes that were made from the contract bid but yet Sorenson has never seen any change orders, plus some items which he feels was beyond the scope of the contract were actually in the contract.
    - The hope is that the project is complete by the time of Sept. 26 the week of the IACCB conference, Oelson did agree to sod 10,000 sq. feet at h cost to try and make the area look nice. We are hoping that the sod will survive not only until, during but after the conference into next season.
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- Dickinson County Recycling Center and Green Waste Site – Willis presented spreadsheet with monthly information. From last month the Swap grant did not get awarded, now Ron Walker is requesting all the city's to assist in the funding of the feasibility study which will cost \$16,250. ICAP did pay for the tractor fire repairs. The compost turner is showing signs of metal fatigue and if it fails repairs cost could run about \$7,000. The quote for upgrades to the fire suppression system for hazmat building is \$3,900 + cost for exterior cabinet for system.

**Dickinson County Conservation Board Area's**

- Horseshoe Bend County Wildlife Preserve
  - The water quote that came in last month at \$22,000 after a meeting has been lower to just over \$9,000. This is due to the water company is interested in paying for line along the roadway to alleviate their dead in line. Pam Jordan suggested we talked to Dan Elhert from the Engineers office due to at some point in the future that road is schedule to be widen. Will want to place the water line out of any future improvement to the roadway. The thought is that with the cost being lower that we will make this improvement in the spring to place the water at Horseshoe Bend.
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- Orleans Beach Update
  - The new playground equipment will be delivered on 9/12/13. Boarded wanted Director Sorenson to make sure the DNR was aware of this since they own the property and we just manage the area. Also discussed that the Marine Fuel Tax grant would once again be applied for t replace the existing bathroom. It was applied for last year but did not get funded, might have to make a financial contribution to make it score higher.
- Land Acquisitions
  - On the Zimmer land acquisition Director Sorenson is going to send all the paper work in early to hopefully to help in the time of reimbursement of the REAP and NAWCA grants. The only thing that we will be waiting on is the Title with the change of ownership which will be completed after the final payment is paid.
  - Operations is going out to mow around the Jahn Property to make it more accessible to the public.

### **Staffing Update**

- Naturalist II position
  - Director Sorenson is attempting to set up interviews for October 5<sup>th</sup> with the top 5 candidates. There will be an interview panel which at this time includes Director Sorenson, Willia Mueska (Board Member), Kathy Kleen (Board Member), Mary Kay Donovan (Foundation Member). We will be asking the candidate to present two 15-20 minute programs during the interviews.

Approval of August Expenses. Kleen/Gronstal moved to approve August expenses. All ayes, carried.

### **General Discussion**

Board discussed a Bee Hive display for the nature center. David (operations) will build the bee hive from plans from a professional design, this design will be a swing design to be able to watch from both sides. Steve Anderson will donate the bees for the hive. It will be placed in the nature center on the main floor. Shared the 2013 numbers for the Westport school house, visitors went from 714 in 2012 to 1,566 in 2013. Not sure why the increase might have had something to do with the opening of the disc golf course, better advertising or just open routine hours. Also increase the donation from \$137.92 in 2012 to \$320.84 in 2013.

### **Adjournment**

Gronstal/Mueska moved to adjourn at 8:23 P.M. All ayes, carried.